<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 1-5 and 8 are allowed, and claims 6, 7, 10 and 18 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 6 is amended to correct a typographical error, as the Examiner suggested, to place claims 6 and 7 in condition for allowance. Claim 9 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter originally recited in claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is canceled. Claim 18 is rewritten into independent form. The amendments to claims 9 and 18 place claims 9-19 in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments merely correct an informality and rewrite allowable claims into independent form); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo

Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

Date: July 17, 2004

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